

**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday – April 14, 2009 – 7 p.m.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Also Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Lt. Adam Brams, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

**Approval of Minutes by Date**

A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to accept the March 10, 2009 Minutes as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

City Treasurer Carlin reported that there was \$400 in petty cash, \$391,396.78 total in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$1,489,688.73 in the Certificates of Deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool and \$1,881,085.51 total cash on hand. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the report as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously.

**Approval of City Administrator's Report**

City Administrator Thomas stated that her report to Council was in their packets. Ms. Thomas also spoke on some of the projects she has been working on the previous month particularly the upcoming City Election.

**Approval of Staff Reports**

Lt. Adam Brams gave an overview of the previous month's activities. Mr. Bergstrom stated that his report is in Council's packet and is available to the public upon request.

**Grant Review**

Mrs. Churchill stated that there was no grant activity for the month of March.

## **Communications**

Council President Blest read a letter from Dr. Padmalingam regarding the clean up of the beach at Battery Park.

Councilperson Petty stated that she attend a preservation meeting in Lewes earlier in the month. Councilperson Petty spoke about the nature of the meeting and the help the committee is offering.

## **Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)**

Mr. Mike Alfree thanked Council for their service to the City.

Mr. Corky Viola also thanked Council for their service to the City. Mr. Viola also spoke regarding the Banks Bldg. Mr. Viola stated that at the last Trustee meeting, they decided that the Trust does not currently want to be directly involved in the preservation of the Banks Bldg.

Dr. Padmalingam thanked Council for their service, especially Council President Blest as well as Councilperson Reese.

Mr. Chris Cashman thanked Council and Mayor Klingmeyer for their work regarding the Library renovation and asked that they keep the Library in mind when discussing Item No. 5, the \$50,000 grant available to the City under the Stimulus Package Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program.

## **Business from the Mayor**

Mayor Klingmeyer thanked Council for their service and particularly Council President Blest and Councilperson Reese since neither of them are seeking re-election.

## **Business from the Council President**

Council President Blest thanked the Mayor and the audience for their help and kind remarks as well as his thanks to the rest of the Council members.

## **Unfinished Business**

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-5, amending Resolution No. 2007-14, approved by the City Council on July 10, 2007, approving transfer to the Trustees of the New Castle Commons the Banks Building on the Wharf at the end of Delaware Street. Councilperson Petty felt that the building should be renovated so the City could collect some type of revenue from the property. She also stated that she hoped to be able to work with the Trustees to accomplish this. Councilperson Reese asked that Council table this matter and let the incoming Council try to work with the Trustees and/or try to find a solution to repairing the building. Councilperson Churchill agreed with Councilperson Reese as did Councilperson Gaworski. This item was withdrawn.

## **New Business**

1. Presentation to, and acceptance by, the City Council of the FY 2007/08 Financial Audit. Councilperson Churchill reviewed the audit and requested that Council accept the audit as presented. Councilperson Reese made a motion to accept the audit and it was passed unanimously.
1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to appoint Tree Commission members, and assignment of terms for those members, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Appointment Recommended By</u>
Vacancy 1	5/1/09 to 4/30/12	Mayor
William "Erv" Thatcher	5/1/09 to 4/30/11	City Council
Thomas Truman	5/1/09 to 4/30/11	City Council
Francis Peden	5/1/09 to 4/30/12	City Council
Mark Miller	5/1/09 to 4/30/11	City Council
Susan Keyser	5/1/09 to 4/30/10	Beautification Committee
Francis "Chip" Patterson	5/1/09 to 4/30/10	Municipal Services Commission
Vacancy 2	5/1/09 to 4/30/10	Trustees of the New Castle Common
Lillian Shue	5/1/09 to 4/30/12	Arasapha Garden Club

Councilperson Churchill made a motion to accept the appointments as stated. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of options for making repairs on the Banks Building. Councilperson Petty spoke of her efforts to have the building renovated.
3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on two Bank Resolutions to pay \$25,000 each, one to be released April 15 and one to be released April 30, to the New Castle Library Board of Trustees, as a contribution to the Capital Library Expansion Project, which the City pledged to pay a total of \$300,000, broken down to pay \$100,000 each fiscal year starting with FY 08/09, and that the City is currently making four payments in the last four months of FY 08/09, to meet the \$100,000 annual contribution. Councilperson Churchill read the Resolutions. A motion was made to accept the Resolutions by Councilperson Churchill and it was seconded by Councilperson Reese. It passed unanimously.
4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution setting the pay for election workers for the New Castle City election. Councilperson Churchill read a letter from Marianne Caven of the City Board of Elections regarding compensation for Election workers as well the Resolution. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the Resolution amended to read that all workers will be paid \$125 and it was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski. It passed unanimously.
5. Discussion of a \$50,000 grant award available to the City of New Castle under the Stimulus Package Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program. Councilperson Churchill said that the City has received a \$50,000 grant, but the money must be used on energy projects. Councilperson

Churchill stated that the incoming Council will have to decide how to best use the grant. In order to receive the grant the City's application must be received by June 25.

6. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to formalize a hiring freeze in the City Government organization. Council President Blest read the Resolution. A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to accept the Resolution. After a brief discussion among Council, it was not seconded and therefore, did not pass.
7. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to Adopt a Local Emergency Operations Plan for the City of New Castle. Councilperson Churchill explained the plan to the audience and read the Resolution. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.
8. Comments from the floor. Ms. Esther Lovlie asked what projects could benefit from the grant from the Stimulus Package Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program. Ms. Thomas said that she would be glad to review all the projects with the residents. Dr. Padmalingam also asked about the grant.
9. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to adjourn to Executive Session. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill F. DiAngelo  
City Clerk